Semi-Formal Writing Assignment #1

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| **Unit:**  Introduction to the Economic Way of Thinking |
| **Topic:**  Opportunity Costs |
| **Type of Writing:**  Semi-Formal |
| **Time Frame:**  One class period plus homework |
| **Plan:**   * Read the poem, *We real cool*, and listen to Gwendolyn Brooks read and talk about the poem. * Discuss the message of the poem. * Relate the ideas in the poem to two economic concepts: opportunity costs and the consequences of our choices lie in the future. * Students will then write a narrative, interview, or poem from the point of view of one of the characters 20 years into the future. They will discuss their choices and their opportunity costs and consequences. |
| **Materials:**   * A copy of Gwendolyn Brooks’ poem, *We real cool* plus audio * Assignment sheet |

**Assignment**

Imagine you are one of the characters in the poem 20 years in the future. Write about your life. You could write a narrative, poem, conduct an interview, etc. Be sure to clear your plan with me. Because this is an economics class, make sure you emphasize the choices you made in your life.

* Who are you?
* Where do you live and what are you doing with your life?
* What are the opportunity costs of the choices you made in the poem?
* What were the consequences of the choices you made in the poem?
* Do your family and friends approve of you now?
* What additional choices did you make and why?
* What were the opportunity costs and consequences of these new choices?
* What's happened to the six other characters from the poem? How would you feel about each other now?

Semi-Formal Writing Assignment #2

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| **Unit:**  Labor Market |
| **Topic:**  Labor Unions |
| **Type of Writing:**  Semi-Formal |
| **Time Frame:**  30 minutes |
| **Plan:**   * Watch the movie, *Matewan*. * Complete a RAFT assignment where they take on the role of a character in the movie and defend their actions. |
| **Materials:**   * A copy of the dvd, *Matewan* * RAFT assignment sheet |

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Matewan*

Homework Assignment

Complete the following RAFT assignment. It should be about a page long, typed, single spaced.

**R**ole: choose one of the major characters from the film

**A**udience: future generations

**F**ormat: editorial for a magazine

**T**ask: defend your actions in the movie